

Oregon delegates share experiences

1976 convention not unlike 1776

BY STATE SEN. VICTOR ATIYEH

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selection, I was constantly consulted and was involved in procedural discussions. As floor leader for Gerald Ford in the Oregon delegation, I was involved in daily meetings with my counterparts from other states.

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"On July 4th, 1976, we began the first year of our third century. In the first year of our first century courageous leaders with an exciting commitment blessed this nation. That courage and that commitment is here tonight. Oregon wants a democracy in the year 2076 for her children's children. Oregon and the nation wants and needs Gerald Ford to be our Presidential leader into a certain future. I am honored, as is Oregon, to second the nomination of Gerald R. Ford for President of the United States."



Says GOP Adopted Anti-Arab Stand

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 build-up of Arab nations" (by the Soviet).

Then the entire Republican platform provisions were quoted as follows: "In the tinderbox of the Middle East, we will pursue a stable peace through recognition by all nations of each other's right to assured boundaries, freedom of navigation through international waters, and independent existence free from the threat of aggression. We will seek an end to the arms race through international agreement and the stationing of peace-keeping forces of the United Nations in areas of severe tension, as we encourage peaceable talk among adversaries.

"Nevertheless, the Soviets persist in building an imbalance of military forces in this region. The fact of a growing menace to Israel is undeniable. Her forces must be kept at a commensurate strength both for her protection and to help keep the peace of the area.

"The United States therefore, will provide countervailing help to Israel, such as supersonic fighters, as necessary for these purposes. To replace the ancient rivalries of this region with new hope and opportunity, we vigorously support a well-conceived plan of regional development, including the bold nuclear desalinization and irrigation proposal of former President Eisenhower."

Well, that's it. For years it was the Democratic Party that protected the Zionists but the GOP is fast adopting the same techniques. But as we said, maybe they had to — in Miami Beach. With over half the community on the Zionist side, the platform makers would have been run out of town on an Indian River raft if they hadn't

taken an anti-Arab stand.

Strangely, about the only Zionist on the Committee was New York's Senator Jacob Javits. But you couldn't pin the blame all on him.

State Senator Victor Atiyeh, an influential legislator from Oregon and a relative of the New York rug merchants, got up in executive session, informed sources disclosed, and tried to get his colleagues to drop the proviso on the U. S. supplying supersonic planes to Israel but Javits made some statements repugnant to Atiyeh in front of the big committee (for which he later apologized), basing his argument on the premise that it was in the best interests of the U. S. But Sen. Atiyeh's new at this game.

Even the quadrennial exercise in polemics proved futile. The usual parade of witnesses favoring Arab consideration appeared before the subcommittee on Foreign Relations. One was Pierre Nis, a disenchanted former State Department man who left the service because of this nation's policy in the Middle East. He spoke on behalf of the American Committee for Justice in the Middle East, and then asked veteran Arabophile Frank Sakran to read his statement. Both were well received especially by the acting chairman, Sen. John Tower of Texas; Congresswoman Frances Bolton of Ohio, who has always understood the problem; and Congressman Peter Frelinghausen of New Jersey. However, Congressional Committees are wary of foreign accents and when Sakran testified he sounded like a refugee from an Ellis Island language test instead of an American resident of a half century.

Speakers on the Israel side included the familiar Zionist

propagandist I. L. Kenin who represented the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and Bernard Katzen, who bills himself as consultant.

Several Americans of Syrian-Lebanese descent were active in other facets of the convention. Albert Gammal, Jr., came as a delegate from Massachusetts where he's reportedly an important aide to the negro Senator, Edward Brooke, Minor George, the Parma, (Ohio) politician, was an alternate delegate as usual. Malouf Abraham of Texas was also an alternate, but Mrs. DeJores Kory of Detroit was a delegate.

While this survey is somewhat informal, we believe that many more are active in the Democratic National Convention. Ironically, at one time nearly everyone who came to the U.S. from Syria and Lebanon were Republicans!

There were two unusual aspects to this year's platform pressures. One was the mysterious "Special Survey" which was distributed to every member of the 100-person committee during its deliberation. It looked all the world like a U. S. State Department document, was fancily labeled "Near East Report" (which is what State calls the Middle East), and carried the questionable "Washington letter on American policy in the Near East."

The other unique angle was the big victory celebration held in the swank Fontainebleau's even more swank Champagne room, presumably sponsored by the nationalities division of the national Republican committee and hosted primarily by the same Mr. Katzen who uses the section as Zionist vehicle. He merrily emceed the gala drinking party in which he introduced Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois, who took full credit for the Zionist planks in the platform, then solemnly asserted that the "Little Republic must be protected by the U. S.", a line he adapted from an address unrelated — that he made to the Republican convention that same evening on television. Katzen also introduced Congressman Jack Rhodes of Arizona who, he disclosed, was the "first person to write President Johnson and demand shipment of fighter aircraft to Israel after the outbreak of the last year.

Many other politicians showed up too, along of course, with Senator Javits whose handwork always seems present in the background though he may say little.

Lebanese American Journal

Aug. 15/68-

Says GOP Adopted Anti Arab Stand In Platform

Several Syrians, Lebanese
Active at Convention

Special Exclusive to Al-Hoda
Lebanese-American Journal

Miami Beach, Fla. —, Aug.
8 — Another Republican National Convention has come and gone — and so have the Arab hopes, for another four years.

It was the same old story. . . Israel got preference in the platform, despite pleas of several who testified on behalf of the Arab cause, and the particular efforts of one delegate who — as a part of the 100-member platform committee of the Whole — made an impassioned but futile appeal for limiting arms.

Perhaps because the convention was based in this community where there are more synagogues than Catholic and Protestant churches combined (as is so obvious when one reads the big directory displayed in the foyer at Convention Hall), but the pro-Zionist planks in the 1968 platform seemed stronger than those adopted in 1964.

Certainly local influence must have played a part. The Miami Beach newspapers focused considerable attention on this phase of the platform hearings which preceded the convention by a week. The Miami Beach Sun boxed an article with a screamer headlines; REPUBLICANS' ISRAEL PLANK. It appeared on an editorial-type page, and in the lead sentence declared: "While calling for a 'stable peace' in the Middle East, the Republican platform urges the United States to send Israel supersonic fighters to match the

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Delegates Elect Hatfield

Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, who has said he would not turn down the Republican vice presidential nomination, will go to the GOP National Convention in Miami next month as chairman of the Oregon delegation.

Hatfield was elected by unanimous ballot Monday, at the organizational meeting of the Republican State Central Committee, held in Portland's Equitable Center auditorium. Vice chairman of the delegation is U.S. Rep. John Dellenback, who, like Hatfield, was elected a delegate-at-large. Secretary is Marv Root of Madras, delegate from the 2nd District.

HATFIELD was nominated for the chairmanship by his successor as Oregon governor, Tom McCall, who mentioned that it would be good "exposure" for Hatfield as a potential vice presidential nominee. In reply later, Hatfield said he will go to the GOP convention as a "messenger" of the voters who chose Richard Nixon in the Oregon Republican primary.

"I am not seeking any role other than that of delegate," Hatfield said. "I will be devoting my time to work as a member of the delegation. On the other hand, I'm not locking any doors. I believe that states it clearly enough."

Hatfield also scotched rumors that the state's delegation is controlled by its chairman — particularly after the pledge to Nixon is discharged.

"**WHATEVER** is decided by the delegation in policy matters will be decided by vote of the delegates," he asserted, "not by the chairman."

Elected to represent the Oregon delegation on convention committees were U.S. Rep. Wendell Wyatt and Shir-

ley Field, resolutions committee; State Sen. Victor Atiyeh, committee on rules and order of business; State Rep. Joe Richards, committee on permanent organization, and Sec. of State Clay Myers, committee on credentials.

Howell Appling Jr., former secretary of state, was named to serve as liaison between the Oregon delegation and former Vice Pres. Nixon, to whom the delegation is pledged.

Most of the delegates indicated that they will leave Portland on Aug. 4 for Miami, and return on Aug. 10 or 11.

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